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accept, or even pass over, the spirit in which it is written. I have discussed this matter with Father Engelhardt, for whose intellectual integrity I have the highest respect, and I am aware of his belief that there is an unavoidable responsibility placed upon him to condemn unsparingly any deviation from the truth in other historians. Indeed, what we have here is the theory of Lord Acton put into practice by one of whose sincerity there can be no doubt. Unhappily, however, Father Engelhardt cannot understand that such judgments are personal, and that a certain amount of suppression of righteous indignation would have gone far to make his statement of the case more widely acceptable. As it is, those who feel with Father Engelhardt will doubtless be gratified, while those who do not will be repelled by his iterated anathemas. One would have looked for something more of charity towards the enemies of his order than is to be found in the painstaking and memorable work of this single-minded and devoted follower of St. Francis.

F. J. T.

*Memorias de Fray Servando Teresa de Mier, del Convento de Santo Domingo, de México, Diputado al Primer Congreso Constituyente de la República.* Prólogo de Don ALFONSO REYES. [Biblioteca Ayacucho, bajo la Dirección de Don Rufino Blanco-Fombona.] (Madrid: Sociedad Española de Librería. [1917]. Pp. xxii, 430. 8 pesetas.)

*La Creación de Bolivia.* By SABINO PINILLA. Prólogo y notas de ALCIDES ARGUEDAS. [Biblioteca Ayacucho.] (*Ibid.* [1917]. Pp. 371. 7.50 pesetas.)

*La Dictadura de O'Higgins.* By M. L. AMUNÁTEGUI and B. VICUÑA MACKENNA. [Biblioteca Ayacucho.] (*Ibid.* [1917]. Pp. 400. 7.50 pesetas.)

*Cuadros de la Historia Militar y Civil de Venezuela desde el Descubrimiento y Conquista de Guayana hasta la Batalla de Carabobo.* By LINO DUARTE LEVEL. [Biblioteca Ayacucho.] (*Ibid.* [1917]. Pp. 462. 8 pesetas.)

To judge from the statements that accompanied the initial volume of the *Biblioteca Ayacucho*, the primary object of the collection was to reprint, either in the original or in translation, memoirs or descriptive accounts written by contemporaries of the Spanish-American struggle for independence and dealing with the events of that period. Although the available stock of such treatises is by no means exhausted, the editor appears to have decided upon at least a temporary change of procedure. Accordingly the subject-matter of the four volumes under consideration either does not relate to the actual era of emancipation, or is the product of historians living at a much later time. In the

opinion of the reviewer this departure from the original intent of the series is regrettable. Students of the period could not fail to acknowledge the great utility of the existing reprints. Toward new editions of secondary works, however meritorious, their attitude must be less favorable; for the reproduction of accounts of that sort could have waited with advantage until the contemporary testimony had been more fully drawn upon.

Fray Servando Teresa de Mier, with whom the first of the volumes is concerned, was a Mexican ecclesiastic whose character and career made him one of the most remarkable personages of his time. His zeal for novel interpretations of religious belief, his brilliant but erratic mind, his versatile pen, and his gift of satire brought him a large number of trials and tribulations. An enthusiastic lover of his country, an ardent advocate of its independence, and yet aware of its unfitness to imitate in its political organization a nation so advanced as the United States, he incurred the disfavor of Mexican radicals in spite of the troubles he had undergone at the hands of the Spaniards.

The volume is a partial reprint of a work published at Monterrey, Mexico, in 1876. It contains an "Apología" of Mier for his famous sermon of 1794, in which he declared substantially that the Spaniards did not introduce Christianity into the New World. It was the apostle St. Thomas, under the name of "Quetzalcoatl", who first preached it! If this were true, the chief moral claim of Spain to dominion in America would be destroyed. For this bold assertion, accordingly, the young Dominican was condemned to banishment. Then follows a lively narration of his adventures in various European countries from 1795 to 1805. Entertaining as this portion of the text is—as a record of the activities of a rather eccentric individual—the rightfulness of its inclusion in the *Biblioteca Ayacucho* is less obvious than would have been that of some of the other works of Mier cited by Sr. Reyes in his scholarly introduction.

*La Creación de Bolivia* contains the fragments of a work written by an eminent jurist and diplomat of that country, and now printed for the first time. It consists of four complete chapters, one that is unfinished, and a collection of notes. The purpose of the author was to explain the origin and development of Bolivian nationality from the earliest times to the deposition of Sucre from the presidency. To this end Dr. Pinilla furnishes at the outset an interesting and well-drawn picture of the actual elements out of which that nationality was to be constructed. In succeeding chapters he describes the political situation from 1824 to 1826, with an abundance of philosophic comment and an elaborate characterization of the men who were foremost in the public eye at the time. Noteworthy in particular is his detailed account of the "deliberative assembly", that had to determine whether or not Bolivia should have a separate national existence, and of the constitutional convention that had to consider the remarkable instrument of government

prepared by Bolívar for the republic that was to bear his name. Even in its incomplete state the work certainly affords a capital interpretation of the events of the period, enabling the reader to understand the nature of the tremendous difficulties that confronted the new state at the beginnings of its independent career.

The prologue by Alcides Arguedas, the noted Bolivian *littérateur*, is a fine specimen of historical prose. In its analysis of Pinilla's work it stresses, with much apparent justification, the claims of Bolívar to consideration as the real founder of the Bolivian nation, contrary to the views expressed by René Moreno and other partizans of Sucre. A biographical sketch of the author concludes the volume.

Miguel Luis Amunátegui and Benjamín Vicuña Mackenna were the most prolific of the publicists and historians of Chile who flourished about the middle of the nineteenth century. In 1853 the former, while a member of the Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities, presented to the University of Chile a "memoria" entitled *La Dictadura de O'Higgins*. Seven years later Vicuña Mackenna published *El Ostracismo del Jeneral Don Bernardo O'Higgins*. In 1882 these were combined in a third edition appearing with two separate title-pages, one bearing the caption of the work of 1853, the other that of *Vida del Jeneral Don Bernardo O'Higgins (su Dictadura, su Ostracismo)*. The volume in the *Biblioteca Ayacucho* is a reprint of this third edition. Though a standard work of its kind and well-known to historical students, an explanation of its origin and of the special motives that induced the editor to reproduce it in a series devoted presumably to contemporary memoirs would have seemed desirable. Nothing of the sort, however, is vouchsafed.

In the case of the treatise by Lino Duarte Level the absence of any editorial message to the reader is even more noticeable. Despite the elaborate title, which might convey the impression that an original work composed by an eye-witness of the later events of which it treats was being presented, in point of fact the volume is simply a reprint of a species of text-book, entitled *Historia Patria* and published at Carácas in 1911. The author, an exile from Venezuela and resident in New York, wrote it in 1908. Not only is no account of the provenance of the work given, but a variety of changes have been introduced into the arrangement of the subject-matter, so as to make it more strictly chronological in sequence. New sections, furthermore, have been introduced and provided with appropriate designations. In one case the existing title itself was altered by inserting "Irish" for "British" as the name for the foreign legion. The author's preface, also, has been converted into a foot-note.

Serviceable as the book may be to the schools of Venezuela, it appears to have no especial merits that would warrant its inclusion in the *Biblioteca Ayacucho*. Nor are the qualifications of the writer as a scientific historian much in evidence. He has culled his material from the accepted secondary sources. His style is fluent and his diction, at

times, highly rhetorical. He has written a readable book, though hardly an original contribution to historical literature worthy of the place to which it has been assigned.

WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD.

#### MINOR NOTICES

*Caesar: the Gallic War.* With an English Translation by H. J. Edwards, C.B., Fellow and Tutor of Peterhouse, Cambridge. [Loeb Classical Library.] (London, William Heinemann, New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1917, pp. xxii, 620, \$1.50.) This is another unit in that *Loeb Classical Library*, which is doing so much to contradict the assertion that the "dead" languages and their literature are no longer with us. Truth to tell, however, only a couple of decades ago a volume with the text of Caesar's *Commentaries* on one page and a tolerably literal translation on the other confronting the first, the whole served up as an honest book and not as a subterranean "trot", would have produced wrath among the schoolmasters; even now it may excite the doubts of the timorous. To all however who really desire that the cause of the classics should not be lost it becomes a most valuable re-enforcement. The interests of Latin studies are decidedly advanced when a good translation of Caesar is hailed as a guide and not as a bandit.

Mr. Edwards's translation of the eight books of the *Gallic War* has been well executed. It is very much superior as a piece of English, as well as being founded upon a considerably better text, to the old McDevitte and Bohn translation of ancient date in the familiar Bohn library. The language is smooth and easy, although sometimes possibly a little too diffuse to carry over the compact phrases of the Latin. The translation however compares very favorably with the recent version by T. Rice Holmes. I have not been able to compare it with the other modern attempt by F. P. Long.

The *Gallic War* constitutes a fairly self-interpreting narrative. Mr. Edwards provides very few notes and those of only one or two lines each. In an introduction and two appendixes, however, he undertakes to supply sufficient explanatory apparatus to make the story intelligible to the much beset "average reader". In frankness it must be said that this apparatus is less satisfactory than the translation. It is too brief to be always lucid, and Caesar is too great a man to have his genius summarized and disposed of in one and a half small pages. Furthermore the appendix on the Roman army, although containing a great amount of compact information, yet in the constant attempt at brevity sometimes commits itself to general statements which seem open to so many exceptions as to make them misleading to the uninitiated. One gets the impression that this apparatus was prepared rather out of a sense of duty than as an essential part of the volume.